



SWISD Board Recognitions

January 20, 2026

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| Albert Alvarez | Employee ▾ |
| SWPD Chief Swear-In | |
| <p>Chief Alvarez brings 23 years of law enforcement experience, including more than 21 years in school-based policing, and has served Southwest ISD for several years, supporting campus safety and departmental operations across the district.</p> <p>Chief Alvarez began his career in 1995 with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Division and later served at Trinity University, the Olmos Park Police Department, San Antonio ISD, and Southwest ISD. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Administration from Wayland Baptist University and is a Master Peace Officer, as well as holding multiple advanced certifications. He will assume the role following Chief Richard Palomo, after 10 years of dedicated service. We thank Chief Palomo for his lasting impact and leadership, and we look forward to Chief Alvarez leading the Southwest ISD Police Department into the future.</p> | |

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| Bryce Barefield | Student of the Month ▾ |
| Kriewald Rd School of the Arts ▾ | |
| <p>Bryce Barefield is an overall amazing student who consistently strives to be the best in everything he does. He is a true model student in all aspects, whether in the classroom, in specials, or even when no one is watching. Bryce demonstrates kindness, generosity, and a willingness to help others, and he is a friend to all. When Bryce's name was mentioned for this nomination, all 5th-grade teachers were in unanimous agreement, which speaks volumes about his character and work ethic. He proudly represents Kriewald through his participation in extracurricular activities, including our AAA team and iPlay team, where he continues to lead by example. Bryce has perfect attendance, which shows his and his parents' commitment to his education. Bryce has a bright future ahead of him, and we are incredibly proud of the outstanding student and person he is becoming.</p> | |



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Jahaziel Ochoa

Student of the Month

Indian Creek Elementary

Indian Creek Elementary is proud to present Jahaziel Ochoa to the School Board as our Student of the Month. Jahaziel consistently demonstrates academic excellence across all core subjects throughout the school year. He exhibits strong critical-thinking and problem-solving skills and shows remarkable growth through his daily dedication to learning. Jahaziel approaches challenges with perseverance and takes initiative in both academic and extracurricular settings.

Beyond the classroom, Jahaziel is a natural leader and a positive role model for his peers. He is always willing to help others when called upon and consistently demonstrates integrity, responsibility, and respect toward both students and staff. Jahaziel actively participates in Beats by Braves and GT Destination Imagination, and he showcases his musical talents by playing several instruments during school performances with our Fine Arts program. Jahaziel exemplifies outstanding citizenship, kindness, cooperation, and teamwork, truly reflecting the values of Indian Creek. He is an exceptional example of what it means to be a Brave.

Lillian Ishmael

Student of the Month

Scobee Middle School

Lillian Ishmael is an exemplary 8th grader whose dedication, leadership, and well-rounded excellence make her highly deserving of recognition by the district board. For the past three years, Lillian has been an outstanding member of the choir program, earning placement among the top three soprano chairs for the Region Choir and serving as a choir officer. She is also a leader in the Thespian Society, where she models confidence, collaboration, and commitment to the performing arts. Lillian consistently represents these programs with professionalism by volunteering at recruitment events and confidently advocating for the arts.

Beyond the arts, Lillian is a self-motivated go-getter who balances high-achieving academics with athletics and participation on the drone team, where her work is featured on the Boeing Tech Port Center website. Lillian works hard, attends tutoring, and goes above and beyond to support her peers. Lillian truly embodies Tiger pride and excellence.



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| Athena Nuques | Student of the Month ▾ |
| CAST STEM High School ▾ | |
| <p>CAST STEM would like to recognize Athena Nuques as our Student of the Month. Athena is a senior at CAST STEM and will graduate in May as one of the top students in her class while earning her Associate Degree from Palo Alto College. She is currently president of the senior class and a member of the National Honor Society. This summer, she earned a coveted spot in the Advanced Technology Manufacturing Academy as an intern, where she gained hands-on experience working at Toyota San Antonio. This school year, she continued expanding her career exploration by earning an internship at Toyotetsu, where she interns twice a week. Her dedication to her studies and her future make Athena a standout student. After high school, she is deciding between her top 3 colleges of Trinity University, Boston University, or NYU and plans to major in Business Administration/Management with a Pre-Law track. Athena would like to eventually graduate from law school at an Ivy League school and become a corporate lawyer.</p> | |

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| Multiple Students | Rising Stars ▾ |
| <p>Maddison Garza - Spicewood Park Elementary</p> <p>Ricardo Garcia - Scobee Middle School</p> <p>Aleen Sanchez - CAST STEM High School</p> | |
| <p>Our SWISD Rising Stars have shown incredible growth, making positive changes and improving attendance. We are confident that their hard work will continue to have a positive impact on their entire Southwest ISD experience.</p> | |

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| Board Appreciation Month | |
| <p>Governor Greg Abbott has declared January 2025 School Board Recognition Month a tribute to the hard-working school board members who play an essential role in our communities and schools. Although showing appreciation should be year-round, taking advantage of the designated month ensures these critical people receive some of the thanks they deserve.</p> | |